



Indianapolis
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor Recognizes 12 with Community Service Awards

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard recognized 12 Indianapolis residents with 2014 Mayor’s Community Service Awards during a ceremony at the Indiana Historical Society tonight. The awards honor those who volunteer their time to strengthen Indianapolis communities.

“Indianapolis is filled with a strong volunteer spirit,” Mayor Ballard said. “These awardees represent the very best of our community. It is an honor to recognize them for their endless work to make our neighborhoods better places in which to live.”

The 22nd annual awards ceremony recognized residents from all areas of Indianapolis and Marion County. Following tradition, a brick will be engraved with each recipient’s name and placed at the Mayor’s Volunteer Plaza at the 11th Street canal basin.

2014 Award Recipients:

Steve Adams: Steve is a full-time firefighter with the Indianapolis Fire Department. On his days off, he volunteers for Hearts & Hands on the near west side to help families attain affordable home ownership. Steve volunteered 950 hours, more time than any non-board member volunteer, to rehab an abandoned home. Because of his dedication, a family of four now has a safe and warm house to call home.

Marcia Hoffbauer: After retiring from a career at Dow Agro-Sciences, Marcia quickly found a new outlet for her talents and joined the Assistance League of Indianapolis in September of 2009. She has brought leadership and guidance to an organization that has provided much needed services in the Indianapolis area for 30 years. In less than five years, Marcia has amassed 3,459 volunteer hours. When the organization struggled to find a new leader, Marcia agreed to take on the role as President. Her organizational skills and warm personality made her a standout in that position. Marcia is a mentor to many, an inspiration to everyone in the organization and is truly a model volunteer in her work to strengthen the community.

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Pastor James Jackson: Pastor Jackson has been the lead Pastor for Fervent Prayer Church for more than 19 years. Over time, he has been vocal and diligent in working to solve problems on the Far East Side and throughout Indianapolis. Recognizing the urgent need to engage young people, he started the youth job initiative Clean for Green. Pastor Jackson also serves as president of the Far East Side Action Center, which serves the community in areas such as crime prevention and improvement. He was appointed by Mayor Ballard to serve on the Police Merit Board, which establishes rules and regulations for IMPD. He has also been asked to serve on the Your Life Matters Task Force created by Mayor Ballard to combat black-on-black crime.

Cindy Maude: Cindy devotes her time and skills to several Indianapolis organizations, including the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens, Art for the Heart, the Coach Tom Hathaway Running South event to benefit the Perry Township Education Foundation, the Perry Township Foundation Golf Outing and the St. Patrick's Day Walk/Run. She is also an active volunteer at St. Roch Catholic Church where she helps with the annual Mayfest and has served on various committees and boards. Cindy also uses her knowledge as a Master Gardener to give back. She created a meditation garden on the grounds of the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry; she coordinated landscaping projects at the Meridian Woods Park clubhouse where she was previously a member of the board of directors; she volunteers at the annual Master Gardener Conference; and she contributes a monthly column on gardening tips in the Meridian Woods Park newsletter where she volunteers as chief editor/publisher.

Janet McCaslin: When Janet assumed the role of Chair of the Presidents Roundtable, she made focused her efforts on bringing together leaders from diverse women's civic, social and service organizations from Indianapolis and Central Indiana. Presently, Janet volunteers and holds leadership roles at the International School of Indiana where her children attend. Janet is also currently active in the Children's Museum Guild of Indianapolis and the Junior League of Indianapolis. Additionally, Janet is a 2009 graduate of the FBI's Citizen's Academy of Indianapolis. A mother of two, Janet devotes 50-60 hours per month to volunteer activities.

Fred and Carina McDowell: For more than 11 years, Fred and Carina McDowell have provided holiday meals for individuals who are in the hospital and away from home during the holiday season. The McDowells have inspired hundreds of hospital staff and volunteers from area businesses and churches to join their family and their Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church congregation in serving these holiday meals to 800-1,000 people. To date, the McDowells have provided holiday meals and memories for nearly 30,000 people at the Ronald McDonald House at Riley Hospital. The McDowells also open their community garden to elementary students to teach them the process of growing healthy food.

Kanwal Prakash (KP) Singh: Since his arrival in Indiana 46 years ago, Kanwal Prakash (KP) Singh has emphasized the importance of cultural and interfaith understanding in Indy. In 1972, KP co-founded the International Center of Indianapolis (ICI). ICI showcases the talents of Indy's distinct cultural groups and honors citizens who promote international outreach in Indiana. His business, KP Singh Designs, advocates for the preservation of Indiana's historic architecture. He also writes about cultural diversity, interfaith issues and community events for numerous online and print publications.

Tom Sturm: Tom has been an active Boy Scouts of America volunteer for 36 years and currently serves as a Scoutmaster and Troop Leader. He is passionate about helping young men seek and attain goals that will enhance their lives, and he enjoys helping them develop skills through the practice of teamwork and civic involvement. Tom teaches by example and encourages scouts to practice living by the Scout law. As a result, many of the young men under his guidance have attained the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

Commander James E. Waters: IMPD East District Commander James E. Waters frequently goes above and beyond the call of duty. He recently developed an educational computer game aimed at teaching Indy teens about the juvenile justice system, their rights and obligations and how to interact with officers respectfully. Commander Waters garnered financial support from local business owners to make his vision a reality.

Andrea S. Weiner: Andrea has devoted much of her time to improving the Fletcher Place neighborhood. Within a few months of becoming active in the community, she prepared and submitted an application for the Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. IPL Project GreenSpace grant. After the grant was awarded, Andrea chaired and organized a neighborhood steering committee to manage the grant and coordinate all projects to improve and beautify neglected areas. She also coordinated neighborhood cleanups and knocked on more than 500 doors with flyers for a community yard sale. Andrea has inspired both established and new residents to carry the torch of community activism. Andrea's projects will have a lasting impact on the Fletcher Place neighborhood for years to come.

Sabrina Young: After many years as a nurse at St. Francis Hospital, Sabrina chose to answer her calling as a community servant. She dedicates more than 50 hours per month to a variety of organizations and individuals. As a volunteer for the National Guard, she raises funds for scholarships for the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund. She is currently forming a nonprofit to assist with the emergency needs of guard members. Additionally, she now works with St. Francis Hospital to raise funds for their new hospice house. Although she lives on Indy's south side, Sabrina assists organizations in all areas of the city.

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